

SENATE RESOLUTION 235

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Jason Mumpower for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who have performed their duties with the utmost probity, and whose efforts during their time in office have been dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their district and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jason Mumpower is one such distinguished public servant who has served both his constituency and this legislative body with honor and distinction as a House member of the 100th through the 106th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Representative Mumpower has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 3rd House District, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Jason Mumpower has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of Johnson and Sullivan Counties, who have evinced their firm belief in Representative Mumpower's abilities as a legislator by electing him to serve seven terms as their representative, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, born on September 22, 1973, in Bristol, Representative Mumpower worked assiduously for Food City Grocery Stores during high school, bagging groceries, running a cash register, and learning important life lessons; and

WHEREAS, after earning his high school diploma from Tennessee High School in 1991, Jason Mumpower handed out cards at Fairmont Elementary School for family friend and future Lieutenant Governor, Ron Ramsey, who was running in his first primary election; and

WHEREAS, a 1995 graduate of King College, Representative Mumpower achieved academic success while majoring in Economics, minoring in Political Science, and participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including taking part in student government and serving as Ron Ramsey's unofficial re-election campaign manager, in which position he masterfully coordinated the door-to-door activities; and

WHEREAS, after helping his mentor get elected to the state Senate, Jason Mumpower, at the remarkably young age of twenty-three, was elected himself to the Tennessee House of Representatives, and, although he was sometimes mistaken for an intern, he has continually served his constituents with humility, grace, and character throughout his distinguished career in public service; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Representative Mumpower has rendered sterling service as a respected member of the House Calendar and Rules Committee; the House Rules Committee; the House Ethics Committee; the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee; the House Government Operations Committee; the House Health and Human Resources Committee; the House Commerce Committee; the House State and Local Committee; the House Consumer Subcommittee; the House Budget Subcommittee; the House Professional Occupations Subcommittee; the Joint Legislative Services Committee; the Joint TennCare Oversight Committee; the Joint Lottery Oversight Committee; and the Joint TACIR Committee; and

WHEREAS, he has also served with distinction from 2006-2008 in his role as House Minority Leader and since 2008 as the first House Republican Majority Leader in the history of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his storied tenure, Jason Mumpower has been at the forefront of the conservative movement in Tennessee as a strong advocate for accountability in government spending, more local control over education, and reform of TennCare; and

WHEREAS, as a proud member of the party of Lincoln and Reagan, Representative Mumpower inspired voters with his optimism and common sense views during the 2008 election, helping his caucus pick up four House seats, giving the House of Representatives its first Republican majority since 1864; and

WHEREAS, after the historic victory, Jason Mumpower attempted to implement every tenant of the “Tennessee Trust”; he led the House Republican Caucus in its valiant efforts to pass a reduction in the sales tax on food, a constitutional amendment proposal to clarify that the Tennessee Constitution does not guarantee abortion rights, and legislation to expand the rights of citizens to carry legal firearms; and

WHEREAS, Representative Mumpower has always been a stalwart champion of a smaller, more efficient government and gallantly fought efforts to create a state income tax during the tax battles of 1999-2002; and

WHEREAS, always willing to reach across the aisle, Jason Mumpower assembled a bi-partisan consensus to pass the landmark, comprehensive ethics reform bill called the “Mumpower Plan” in 2006; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Representative Mumpower sponsored the Johnia Berry Act, which was named in honor of a Bristol native who was brutally murdered in Knoxville in 2004 and required those charged with certain heinous felonies to provide a DNA sample to be stored in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation’s database; and

WHEREAS, as a valued member of the Republican TennCare Reform Task force, Jason Mumpower authored ground-breaking legislation to reform this consequential health care program and was one of the original sponsors of performance-based budgeting legislation that linked accountability measures to government spending in order to identify wasteful expenditures; and

WHEREAS, standing for personal freedom and against the evils of big government intrusion, Representative Mumpower has tirelessly fought to ban the use of traffic cameras throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Jason Mumpower has also been the driving force behind the forward-thinking and cutting-edge safety legislation necessary to prohibit the use of smart car vehicles on interstates; and

WHEREAS, while he is confident in his well researched and thoughtful views, Representative Mumpower is also a humble legislator who hosts “listening meetings” throughout his district and sends his constituents questionnaires to ensure he is kept abreast of their interests and concerns; and

WHEREAS, a proven and dedicated member of the General Assembly, Jason Mumpower lives farther away from the state capitol than any other legislator and has put over 270,000 interstate miles on his cars, traveling from Bristol to Nashville countless times in order to properly serve the 3rd District; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Representative Mumpower, who is an Eagle Scout, has given his time and energies to many community, civic, and charitable organizations, including the National Conference of State Legislators, the American Legislative Exchange Council, the National Association of Sportsmen Legislators, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, the Bristol TN/VA Rotary Club, the King College Alumni Association, the Sullivan County Republican Party, Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, and the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Jason Mumpower is recognized throughout the State of Tennessee as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience and has received many prestigious endorsements for his laudable efforts, including from the National Rifle Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the State Employees Association, the National Association of Independent Business, and Right to Life; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Representative Mumpower is an active member of the Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Jason Mumpower has received numerous awards and honors throughout his illustrious career, including the 1999 Outstanding Young Man Award from the Kingsport Jaycees, the 1997 40 Under Forty Award from *The Business Journal* of Tri-Cities

Tennessee/Virginia, and the 2003, 2004, and 2007 Legislator of the Year Award from the First Tennessee Development District; and

WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career as a public servant, Representative Mumpower has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the time-honored values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, after having served the State of Tennessee and House District 3 for nearly a third of his life, and losing a significant amount of hair, Jason Mumpower is now looking forward to raising a family with his beloved wife, Alicia, who has also graciously served this legislative body as a staff member for the House Democrats; and

WHEREAS, dearly loved by his staff and colleagues alike, Representative Mumpower has amassed a plethora of fond memories with so many of them, even though they often tease him for sporting his standard attire of shorts, hot orange pants, or “metrosexual” pink shirts and ties; and

WHEREAS, his staff appreciates his love of every kind of office supply, especially large, oversized notepads, and has enjoyed tormenting him by re-arranging the articles on his over-orderly desk, and presented him with his own personal “Mumpmobile” after he continually requested a staff member to meet him at his car with a flat bottom cart from general services; and

WHEREAS, a fiscal conservative in every sense, Jason Mumpower carefully saves his and his staff members’ plastic Coke bottle caps to exchange them for free Coca-Cola products; and

WHEREAS, known for his love of Nashville’s many attractions and restaurants, especially Burger King, Jason’s Deli, Tootsie’s, and The Stage, Representative Mumpower never consumes liquor and is always the most sober one to leave a party; and

WHEREAS, with his office temperature remaining just above freezing, Jason Mumpower bought his staff “Slankets” for Christmas, which are similar to Snuggies but thicker and longer, and all meetings with the Republican leadership are B.Y.O.B. - Bring Your Own Blanket; and

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Representative Mumpower was chided by his father for using ketchup on his steaks until one evening, while dining at a classy restaurant, the president

of a local bank ordered ketchup for his steak, and, since that fateful day, Mr. Mumpower has confidently dined in the manner pleasing to his own particular tastes and desires, whether he is partaking in his morning ritual of eating two graham cracker sandwiches with peanut butter spread to the edges or his peculiar way of consuming his regular order of pancakes and extra crispy bacon at the Pancake Pantry; and

WHEREAS, an avid comic book collector since the age of twelve, Jason Mumpower now owns about 20,000 titles, having never sold one despite having an ethics complaint being filed against him; and

WHEREAS, while his current favorite comic book hero is Spiderman, Representative Mumpower also dearly loves Calvin and Hobbes and quoted its creator Bill Watterson when announcing that he would not seek another term in the House, stating, "It's always better to leave the party early"; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Jason Mumpower is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife and is also deeply grateful for the never-ending support of his father, Troy Mumpower; his mother, Cathy Wolfenbarger; and his brother, Adam Mumpower; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jason Mumpower is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his distinguished tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Representative Jason Mumpower for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 3rd House District, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.